

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 DRC-01

/163 W

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R 060945Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1177

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3652

E .O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEA, SN

SUBJECT: ASEAN SECRETARIES GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2-4

1. SINGAPORE HOSTED A MEEETING OF ASEAN SECRETARIES GENERAL SEPTEMBER 2-4. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENT, ACCORDING GEORGE BOGAARS, PERMANENT SECRETARY, FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS AGREE-MENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A SCHEME INVOLVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT WITHIN ASEAN IN THE SUPPLYING OF CERTAIN BASIC MATERIALS IN SHORT SUPPLY SITUATIONS. BOGAARS SAID SIX COMMODITIES ARE TO BE INCLUDED INCLUDING RICE, RUBBER AND TIN. (OIL IS NOT INCLUDED). PLAN WOULD BE OPERATIVE ONLY WHEN WORLD

MARKET WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND ONE OR MORE ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD SURPLUS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS ON PREFERENTIAL BASIS AT CURRENT MARKET PRICES. THIS PROPOSED SCHEME WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE ASEAN
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MINISTERS BEFORE COMING INTO EFFECT.

2. BOGAARS ALSO SAID THE GROUP AGREED TO CONVENE MEETING OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS TO CONSIDER TRADE LIBERALIZATION WITHIN ASEAN, COMPLEMENTARITY (AVOIDING DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETING INDUSTRIES), AND JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. GOS, WHICH HAS RELATIVELY FEW TARIFFS, FAVORS ACROSS THE BOARD TARIFF CUTS WHILE OTHERS PREFER SELECTIVE ITEM BY ITEM REDUCTIONS.

3. ORGANIZATION OF ASEAN SECRETARIAT ALSO DISCUSSED. SINGAPORE AND POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO OTHERS WANT SMALL, STREAM-LINED ORGANIZATION WHILE OTHERS PREFER SOMETHING MORE ELABORATE. PLANNERS SENT BACK TO DRAWING BOARDS AND MEETING WILL BE CONVENED IN OCTOBER IN BANGKOK TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER. WHATEVER FINALLY EVOLVES MUST BE APPROVED BY ASEAN MINISTERS WHO DO NOT MEET UNTIL MAY 1975.
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